Onna no Ko Play
ch. 1
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ONNA NO KO PLAY

CH. 1: TO ACT, OR NOT TO ACT, THAT IS THE QUESTION

NOTARI HINEMOSU

WELL THEN, I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND HEAD TO THE CLUB ROOM.
ガヤ ガヤ
SHIINA-SAN, AFTER YOU'RE DONE CLEANING, WANT TO GO OBSERVE A CLUB TOGETHER?
AH, I ALREADY JOINED A CLUB.
REALLY! WHICH CLUB?
THE DRAMA CLUB
—I SHOULD GO BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
ガヤガヤ

GOOD AFTER-NOON
Drama club
AND I IMMEDIATELY JOINED THE DRAMA CLUB ON THE DAY OF THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY SINCE I'VE HAD AN INTEREST IN IT FOR A WHILE
HERE AT IRIFUNE HIGH SCHOOL CLUB ACTIVITIES FLOURISH FROM THE WHOLE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING BEING JUST FOR CLUB ROOMS
WELL... I GUESS I'LL W IT HERE..
...I GUESS THE UPPER-CLASSMEN HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET..
AND IT WAS RIDICULOUS BUT JUST AS I HAD THOUGHT, BEING ON STAGE WAS FUN...
HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM WAS—
RIGHT AFTER JOINING WE SUDDENLY WENT TO RECRUIT NEW STUDENTS
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME BEING PUT ON STAGE

THE PROBLEM WAS THAT...
I WAS GIVEN A FEMALE ROLE..
PLUS...
...IF ANYONE FINDS OUT THAT WAS ME, I'LL TOTALLY BE TREATED AS A PERVERT...
THAT CLUB PRESIDENT IS SERIOUSLY OVER-WHELM-ING...
IT'S LIKE SHE'S USING HER POWER TO HARASS ME...
AND SHE TOLD ME TO ALWAYS DRESS AS A GIRL DURING CLUB ACTIVITIES...

HMM, SO I'M HARASSING YOU?
WELL, I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING YOU BEING AGAINST IT.
AH! NO, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
HUH? YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YET, SASAKI-KUN?
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP, THE OTHERS WILL ARRIVE
IN THE END, I'M DRESSING LIKE THIS AGAIN...
AH... RIGHT...
MAKE SURE YOU PUT ON THE UNDER-WEAR, TOO.
URGH...

GOOD AFTER-NOON!
I'M SORRY I'M LATE. I WAS ON CLEANING DUTY.
AH, SHIINA-SAN.
SEE? YOU JUST BARELY MADE IT, SAKI-CHAN.
IT'D BE BAD IF SHE FOUND OUT, AFTER ALL.
AH! HEY!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
UH! IT'S NOTHING! REALLY!
YOU COULD SAY IT'S ABOUT PERSONAL AFFAIRS OR INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY!
EHH? I'M THE ONLY ONE BEING LEFT OUT?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M TRYING TO EXCLUDE YOU!
AH! UCCHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY UP AND COME IN!

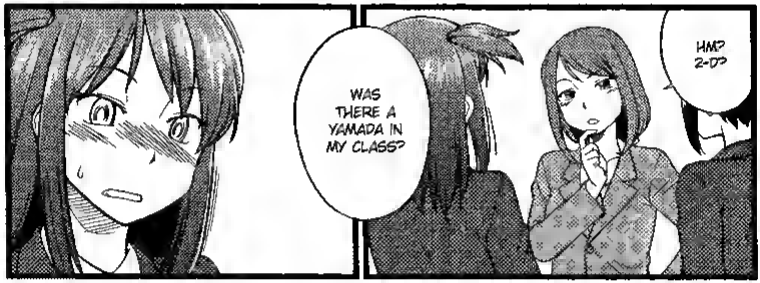
IT'S HARD TO COME IN TO...
AN OUT-OF-PLACE ROOM LIKE THIS THAT'S FILLED WITH GIRLS...
YOU FINALLY SHOWED YOUR FACE HERE
I JUST COULDN'T MAKE IT...
OH, YEAH. WE TRIED THE "SCIENCE OF MODEN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS" FOR THE RECRUITMENT
IT WAS RECEIVED PRETTY WELL.
IT WAS FOR A SOLO ACT, BUT ADDING IN THE MANNEQUIN ROLE MADE IT BETTER
I SEE...
AND THIS GIRL PLAYED THE MANNEQUIN
HMM...
AH. HELLO...
HOW ABOUT AN ENERGETIC, BOYISH GIRL ROLE...?
IT'D BE INTERSTING TO GIVE YOU MALE ROLES TOO...I GUESS.

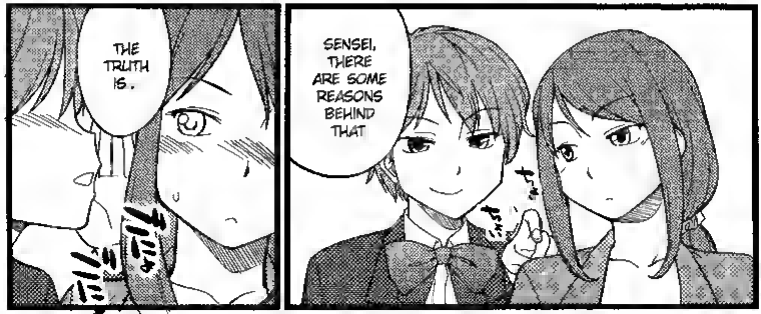
THREE PEOPLE.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S EASIER TO WRITE THAN A SOLO ACT..
WE HAVE ONE MORE NEW MEMBER, SO THINK UP ROLES FOR HER, TOO
HMM, YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP.
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU GO ON STAGE, TOO?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M DOING THAT.
TANUMA-SAN, TANUMA-SAN
HM?
WHO'S HE .?
ACTUALLY, THERE WAS A GUY WHO WAS A MEMBER?
HUH? SAKI-SAN, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A SECOND-YEAR, YOU DON'T KNOW HIM?
UH!
I SEE...
HE'S SHOUJI UCHIYAMA, A SECOND-YEAR.
HE'S IN CHARGE OF THE SCRIPTS FOR THE DRAMA CLUB.

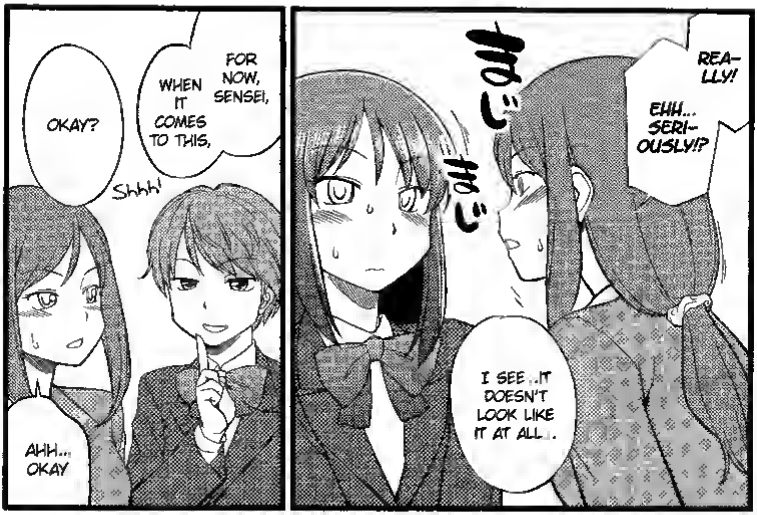
AHAHA ...
I'VE BEEN SAYING IT'S OKAY TO TALK CASUALLY TO ME, THOUGH. RIGHT, SAKI-CHAN?
AHH, IT'S LIKE DECIDING THE UPPER AND LOWER RANKS WHEN SOMEONE JOINS INSTEAD OF BY AGE.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU SPEAK FORMALLY TO TANUMA-SAN
UMM .
THAT'S BECAUSE... I JOINED... DURING SPRING BREAK
I CAN'T DO THAT!
EVEN IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, YOU WERE STILL HERE BEFORE ME!
WE'RE CLASS NO, IT'S LIKE WE JOINED DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD
WELL THAT'S HOW IT IS, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK SO FORMALLY TO ME, OKAY?
HERE, I SIGNED IT.
SO SIGN IT AND TURN IT IN, NITTA.
THANKS, SUTANI-SENSEI.
OHH, I SEE ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS ARE HERE.
.....

AHH... UMM...
I'M SAKI YAMADA FROM CLASS 2-D...
I'M YUUKO SHIINA FROM CLASS 1-D IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.

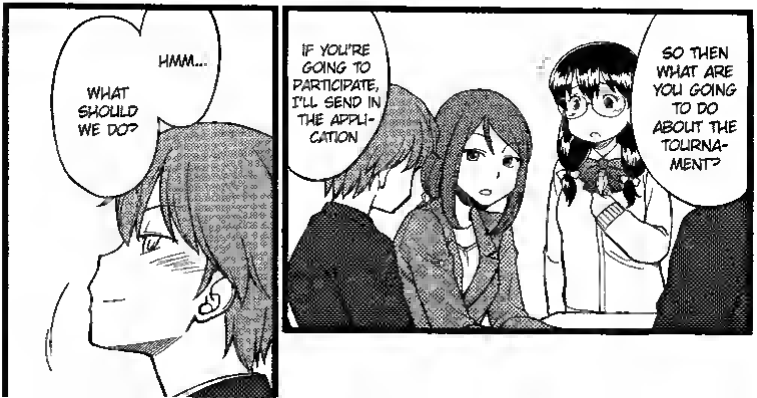
NOW YOU CAN REST EASY SINCE WE HAVE SOME NEW MEMBERS.
I'M SUTANI, ADVISOR FOR THE DRAMA CLUB. NICE TO MEET YOU.


WAS THERE A YAMADA IN MY CLASS?
HM? 2-D?


THE TRUTH IS.
SENSEI, THERE ARE SOME REASONS BEHIND THAT


REA-
LLY!
EHH...
SERI-
OUSLY!?
I SEE...IT
DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
IT AT ALL.
FOR
NOW,
SENSEI,
WHEN
IT
COMES
TO THIS,
OKAY?
Shhh!
AHH...
OKAY

BUT WELL,
YOU HAVE
MORE
MEMBERS,
SO THE
CLUB WILL
SURVIVE.
IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO PUT
ON A PROPER
PLAY NOW,
TOO.


SO THEN
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO
ABOUT THE
TOURNA-
MENT?
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
PARTICIPATE,
I'LL SEND IN
THE APPLI-
CATION
HMM...
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

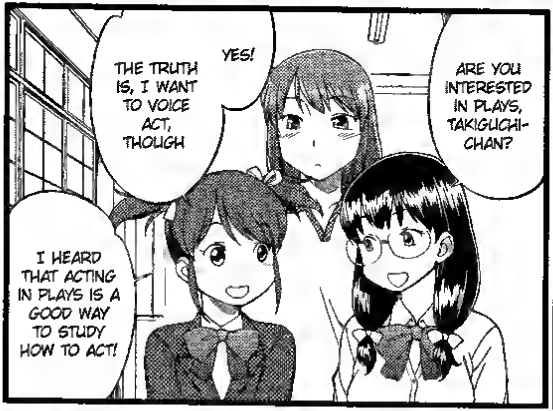
TANUMA-SAN, THERE'S A TOURNAMENT?
AHH. YEAH.
IT'S A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA TOURNAMENT
IT'S LIKE DOING INTER-HIGH SCHOOL CULTURAL CLUB ACTIVITIES..
YEAH...
BUT WELL, I GUESS WE SHOULD PARTICIPATE, AFTER ALL.
IF WE DON'T ENTER THE TOURNAMENT, OUR CHANCES TO BE ON STAGE WILL ALSO DECREASE.
HM, OKAY.
ALL RIGHT! THEN LET'S DO SOME BASIC TRAINING WITH THE NEW MEMBERS RIGHT AWAY
COME UP TO THE ROOF WHEN YOU'RE DONE CHANGING.
HUH!? CHANGE!?
AH! SORRY, I FORGOT.
YOU'RE GONNA BE MOVING AROUND, SO SHE SAID TO PREPARE CLOTHES THAT YOU CAN EXERCISE IN
...ISN'T THAT SOMETHING IMPORTANT...?

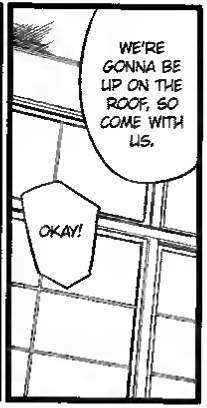
THANK-FULLY,
I ALREADY HAD P.E. TODAY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SAKI-CHAN?
UH...WAIT A SECOND! I'M GONNA STEP OUT!
HEY, TANUMA-SAN!
TANUMA-SAN, I CAN'T CHANGE, SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HUH? BUT AREN'T YOU IN THE SAME CLASS AS SHIINA-CHAN?
WELL... I'M LYING ABOUT BEING A SECOND-YEAR,
AND THE GYM CLOTHES ARE DIFFERENT COLORS BETWEEN GRADES.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT...
WAIT A SECOND, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE ONE OF THE COSTUMES

TANUMA-SAN!! WHAT IS THIS!?
REALIZE IT BEFORE YOU PUT IT ON
JUST AS IT LOOKS, IT'S A VOLLEYBALL CLUB COSTUME.
HUH? IS THIS . THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB?
ダニー
UHH, THIS SUCKS ..
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE, SO JUST PUT UP WITH IT TODAY

YES! I'M MIYUKI TAKIGUCHI FROM CLASS 1-B!
PLEASE LET ME OBSERVE THE DRAMA CLUB'S ACTIVITIES!

NO, THIS IS THE DRAMA CLUB, BUT DO YOU NEED SOMETHING?


YES!
THE TRUTH IS, I WANT TO VOICE ACT, THOUGH
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYS, TAKIGUCHI-CHAN?
I HEARD THAT ACTING IN PLAYS IS A GOOD WAY TO STUDY HOW TO ACT!


WE'RE GONNA BE UP ON THE ROOF, SO COME WITH US.
OKAY!

THERE ARE PROFESSIONAL VOICE ACTORS THAT HAVE ACTED IN PLAYS, TOO!
LIKE TAKESHI AONO-SAN, KANETA KIMOTSUKI-SAN, AND ICHIROU NAGAI-SAN!

THEN FIRST OF ALL, WE'LL DO SOME BASIC TRAINING.
New recruits!
Fight on!
Fight on!
RUN-NING,
STRE-TCHING,
Nnnn...!
FLEX-IBILITY EXER-CISES,

ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO SAKI-CHAN.
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE A SPORTS CLUB
AND MUSCLE TRAINING.
One...
Two...
FALL... BACK?
I'LL SUPPORT YOU FROM BEHIND, SO RELAX AND TRY FALLING BACK
NEXT, WE'LL DO A FALLING LESSON FOR THE TWO NEW MEMBERS.
FALLING LESSON?

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HOW WAS IT? DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR BODY STIFFENED UP FROM FEAR?
IF YOU UNDERSTAND YOURSELF WHAT PARTS OF YOUR BODY GET TENSE,
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CONSCIOUSLY LOOSEN UP.
THEN LET'S DONE IT ONCE MORE
SAKI-CHAN, TRY PAIRING UP WITH NITTA
OKAY!
UMM, RELAX MY BODY..
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GAH!!
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU GOT SHOT AND FELL OVER, RIGHT?
YOU TOTALLY LOOKED RELAXED, SO IT WAS A GOOD PERFORMANCE
I WASN'T ACTING !!
AH, SORRY.
YOU'RE WEARING KNEE AND ELBOW BRACES, SO I THOUGHT YOU'D BE OKAY.
PREZ !!
SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE PRETENDING TO REPEAT THE SAME GAG.
GAH !!
OKAY, OKAY.
I MEAN IT, OKAY? PLEASE DON'T DO THAT!
PLEASE DON'T MOVE AWAY NEXT TIME, OKAY?

TAKIGUCHI-SAN,
WHAT DID YOU THINK AFTER OBSERVING THE CLUB?
IT WAS INTERESTING!
Especially when she fell down!
PLEASE LET ME JOIN THE CLUB!
OHH! WE HAVE A LOT OF MEMBERS NOW
I MAY BE INEXPERIENCED, BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL!
WITH AT LEAST FOUR ACTORS, THERE ARE QUITE A FEW THINGS YOU COULD DO
YEAH, ALTHOUGH IT'S JUST US GIRLS.
HUH !?
DEPENDING ON THE SCRIPTS, IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO GIVE SHIINA-CHAN A MALE ROLE, TOO

SHIINA-CHAN WAS ORIGINALLY WORRIED OVER DOING MALE ROLES IN RAKUGO,
SO DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE FOR HER TO DO THAT UP ON STAGE?
YOU'RE RIGHT. IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I MIGHT LIKE TO TRY IT.
AH! THEN I WANT TO TRY IT, TOO!
THERE ARE A LOT OF VOICE ACTRESSES WHO VOICE YOUNG BOYS!
IF WE DO THAT, THEN I GUESS THE HEROINE WILL BE SAKI-CHAN!
EH!?
WHAT!?
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, SAKI-CHAN
THIS JUST DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...!

THIS IS BAD..
THIS IS BAD..
IT'LL BE BAD IF SHE KEEPS HAVING HER OWN WAY LIKE THIS..
I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT DRESS-ING LIKE THIS!!
HUH!? YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT!?
YOU'VE ALREADY CHANGED!
OR IS IT THAT YOU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE BLOOM-ERS?
NO!

I MEAN, EVEN THOUGH I'M BEING MADE TO CROSS-DRESS WHEN THERE ARE NO FEMALE ROLES,
NOW THAT SHIINA-SAN AND TAKIGUCHI-SAN ARE HERE, I DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ANYMORE!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO DRESS LIKE THIS, RIGHT!?
WELL, JUST CALM DOWN, SAKI-CHAN.
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
WHAT ARE YOU YELLING ABOUT?
YOU LOOK CUTE, SO IT'S FINE
UH, BUT WHETHER I'M CUTE OR NOT ISN'T THE POINT.
WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS THAT THERE ISN'T A REASON FOR ME TO DO FEMALE ROLES ANYMORE!
HMM...
SO IF THERE WAS A PROPER REASON,
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH CROSS-DRESSING AND DOING FEMALE ROLES, RIGHT?
WELL... IF THERE WAS A REASON I COULD ACCEPT...

SASAKI-KUN,
DO YOU LIKE GIRLS?
HUH!?
AH, SORRY! WERE YOU ACTUALLY GAY?
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WAS TRYING TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST YOU!
I WAS JUST SURPRISED BECAUSE IT WAS SO SUDDEN!
I LIKE THEM LIKE NORMAL!
HMM, NORMAL... HUH?
SHEESH— WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
WELL, I UNDER-STAND THAT YOU'RE STRAIGHT,
BUT IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING NORMAL?
HUH?

THINGS SUCH AS COMMON SENSE OR ORDINARY LIFE
THAT YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUSLY CONVINCED ARE NORMAL
ARE OFTENTIMES THINGS THAT CAN'T BE CONVEYED.
HUH..? THAT'S...
GOOD AFTERNOON!
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS LATER.
WE'LL BE USING TOOLS TODAY, SO BRING THAT CARDBOARD BOX WITH YOU.
AH.. OKAY!
...GLOVES AND BALLS?

AH, THAT'S WHAT THE GLOVES ARE FOR
IT'S LIKE WE'RE STARTING TO DO TYPICAL ALTHETIC CLUB ACTIVITIES NOW
WELL THEN, WE'LL BE PLAYING CATCH TODAY
PLAYING CATCH IN THE DRAMA CLUB IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
INSTEAD OF USING AN ACTUAL BALL, TRY PLAYING CATCH WITH AN IMAGINARY BALL
NAMELY, THIS IS WHAT'S CALLED PLAYING AIR CATCH!
IT'S LIKE IN RAKUGO WHEN YOU USE GESTURES TO SIGNIFY SOMETHING ELSE...
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE GONNA BE MIMING
WELL, THAT'S TRUE,
BUT DO IT WHILE IMAGINING YOU'RE REALLY DOING IT WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT ACTING

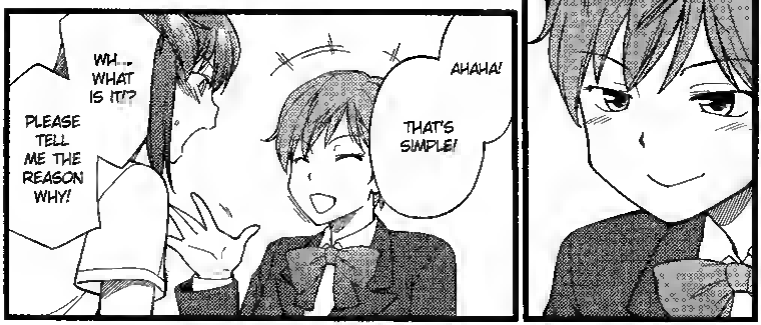
I HAVEN'T PLAYED CATCH SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
EVEN IF I'M TOLD TO DO IT LIKE I ACTUALLY AM,
I'VE NEVER PLAYED CATCH, SO I DON'T REALLY GET IT
WELL, NORMALLY THERE AREN'T MANY THAT HAVE DONE IT

I SEE...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
UMM.. LIKE THIS?
THERE!
A tornado?
.....

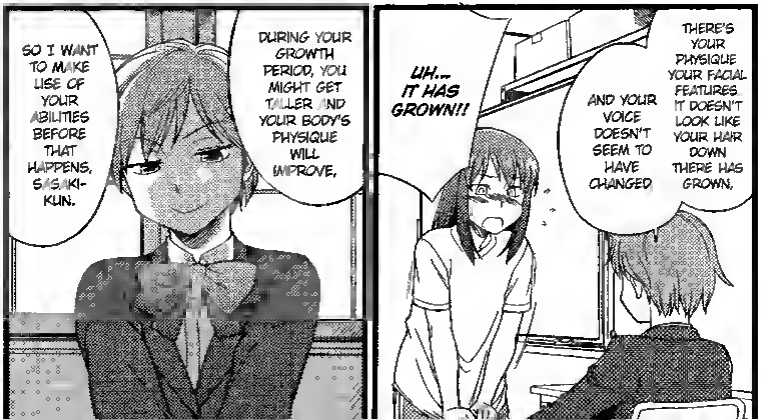
AH, NO.
SAKI-SAN, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YET?
IS PREZ STILL IN THERE?
WE'LL BE GOING FIRST.
ぎゅ
UM .. PREZ...
ABOUT WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT...
HM?
OH! GOOD JOB TODAY, SAKI-CHAN.

EVEN WITH SOMETHING LIKE PLAYING CATCH, THERE ISN'T ONE NORMAL WAY TO DO IT,
AND BESIDES, IT'S NOT SOMETHING GIRLS NORMALLY DO.
REALLY?
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WANTED TO SAY.
I KIND OF FEEL LIKE
HMM.
I ALSO DON'T THINK IT'S NORMAL TO DO A TORNADO PITCHING METHOD, THOUGH...
YEAH, FOR EXAMPLE,
IF YOU PLAYED HAMLET,
COULD YOU PUT REAL EMOTION INTO THE "TO BE OR NOT TO BE, THAT IS THE QUESTION" LINE?
NO...I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE IN THAT

THEN DO YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO BE ABLE TO PLAY A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL BOY?
HUH...!?
WE... WELL...
NO MATTER HOW CLOSE YOU THINK THE ROLE APPLIES TO YOU,
THAT ROLE WILL DEFINITELY BE SOME-ONE OTHER THAN YOU
THAT'S WHY ACTORS STRIVE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR ROLES.
IT'S ALSO SAID THAT MEN CAN PLAY FEMALE ROLES BETTER.
EVEN IF THE [illegible] SEX IS CLOSE BY IT'S FAR APART FROM YOURSELF AFTER ALL
BUT..
BUT STILL,
WITH THAT LOGIC, SHOULDN'T THERE BE MORE ACTORS PLAYING WOMEN?
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT ACTUALLY IS...
SO WHY ME!?


WH... WHAT IS IT!?
PLEASE TELL ME THE REASON WHY!
AHAHA!
THAT'S SIMPLE!

I THOUGHT YOU COULD DO IT, SASAKI-KUN.
THAT'S BECAUSE


SO I WANT TO MAKE USE OF YOUR ABILITIES BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, SASAKI-KUN.
DURING YOUR GROWTH PERIOD, YOU MIGHT GET TALLER AND YOUR BODY'S PHYSIQUE WILL IMPROVE,
UH... IT HAS GROWN!!
AND YOUR VOICE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED
THERE'S YOUR PHYSIQUE YOUR FACIAL FEATURES IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOUR HAIR DOWN THERE HAS GROWN.

SOMETHING I... CAN DO.
IT'S SOMETHING ONLY YOU CAN DO
..I UNDER-STAND.
HM? WHAT?
.....
SO.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN REALLY LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
BUT IF YOU SAY THAT MUCH TO ME,
I'LL DO... FEMALE ROLES.
ALL RIGHT.
I'M GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND

I MADE UP ALL THAT LOGIC AT RANDOM, BUT THANK GOODNESS IT WORKED
H..
HUUUUH !!!?
WHAT!!? SO ALL THAT WAS A LIE!!?
I WAS A LITTLE TOUCHED THAT YOU HELD EXPECTATIONS FOR ME!!

IT'S MEAN TO CALL ME A LIAR
YOU CAN JUST APPLY LOGIC AND OINTMENT TO ANYTHING
AHHH! SHEESH! WHAT'S WITH THIS PERSON !!?
BY THE WAY, DID YOU KNOW, SASAKI-KUN?
KNOW WHAT...?
THE DRAMA CLUB ROOM HAS A LOT OF DEVICES FOR RECORDING AUDIO AND VIDEO.

BUT WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, SASAKI-KUN?
IT'S SAID THAT A MAN DOESN'T GO BACK ON HIS WORD.
I UNDER-STAND! I'LL DO IT!!
HAA...
THAT GIRL IS DEFINITELY JUST ENJOYING HERSELF.
I'M HOME..

I'M SCARED THAT IT SEEMS LIKE I'LL GET USED TO IT BEFORE I KNOW IT, THOUGH...
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT UNTIL THAT TYRANT GRADUATES.
H-...!?
H-
HOW DID I COME HOME WITHOUT NOTICING I'M WEARING THIS UNDER-WEAR!?
BUT STILL...
HOW... SHOULD I GO ABOUT WASHING THESE?
TO BE CONTINUED